



Area 4 Developmental Disabilities Board

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February 11, 2014

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AIDD Review of the State Council

The federal **Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD)** reviewed the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities and found noncompliance in four distinct areas of the federal DD Act.

To let people know about the monitoring report, the State Council released a Fact Sheet, posted at <http://www.scdd.ca.gov/res/docs/pdf/MTARS/MTARS%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>.

The information in the State Council's FACT Sheet is presented below:

"FACT SHEET

MONITORING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW SYSTEM REPORT (MTARS)

INTRODUCTION

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is an independent state agency that is funded by the federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) to increase the independence, productivity, self-determination, and inclusion and integration of individuals with developmental disabilities into their communities. State Councils are expected to adhere to and comply with the provisions of the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402 (the DD Act). Each State Council is required to develop and implement a State Plan that lays out its activities to advance the purpose of the DD Act. To review California's State Plan, click here: www.scdd.ca.gov/res/docs/pdf/state%20plan/hq-scddstplanpublicversion.pdf

In order to ensure that the missions and functions of State Councils are carried out in accordance with the DD Act, AIDD staff may periodically conduct a site visit to monitor the activities of a Council. This is known as a Monitoring and Technical Assistance Review System Report site visit (MTARS). The AIDD conducted an MTARS of the California State Council on January 14—17, 2013. The AIDD released its MTARS report of the California State Council on November 22, 2013 with findings of noncompliance in four distinct areas of the DD Act.

MTARS FINDINGS

The 2013 MTARS report noted that AIDD teams had previously visited the California Council in 1994 and 2006 and had cited issues of noncompliance following those visits. They found that the noncompliance findings in 2013 were similar to and consistent with the 1994 and 2006 findings. The AIDD found that these historical compliance issues centered primarily around conflicting provisions between California's Lanterman Act and the federal DD Act.

The AIDD found that the Lanterman Act includes provisions and requirements for the Council that are inconsistent with the requirements of the DD Act. An outline of the noncompliance issues are as follows:

Budget

- o Council Funding of Area Boards*
- o Clarity with the use of Federal vs. State Funds*
- o Budget Development Process*
- o Budget Execution Process*

Hiring Authority

- o Deputy Director Staff positions*
- o Governor's Office role in Council Hiring Process*

Membership

- o Long-Term Unfilled Vacancies*
- o Nomination Process*

State Council Leadership and Activities

- o State Council Control of Area Board Activities*
- o Overlap of P&A and Area Board Duties*
- o Council versus Area Board Roles & Responsibilities*
- o Council Accountability over Area Board Activities*

NEXT STEPS

The SCDD is required to develop and submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to AIDD by February 14, 2014. The Council expects that some of the changes that are required to respond to the MTARS findings will require revisions to the Lanterman Act. The Council recognizes that the developmental disability community --- self-advocates, family members, service providers, and public officials --- need to have their voices heard while we engage in such a sensitive undertaking. Accordingly, during the coming months there will be many opportunities available for the public to weigh in. Starting in February, 2014, the Council will host listening sessions, public meetings and provide an email address for input and questions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please refer to the SCDD web site MTARS page for background information and upcoming events: www.scdd.ca.gov/mtarsadhoc.htm. Questions may be directed to Roberta Newton, Interim Executive Director at (916) 322-8481 or (866) 802-0514."

SB 577 (Pavely) Employment Preparation

Senate Bill 577 (Pavely): SB 577 will create a new regional center service category for employment preparation.

SB 577 is sponsored by California Disability Services Association (CDSA) with the State Council as a co-sponsor. Last week, the Senate voted 32-0 to pass SB 577, sending the bill to the Assembly.

As described in the **Council's support letter to Governor Brown**,

"...SSB 577 seeks to establish a regional center service specifically to support people with developmental disabilities to identify their interest and strengths related to possible employment, find volunteer or internship opportunities for them to try out different types of work, receive the necessary training or education, network, and to seek employment..."

"SB 577 seeks to address a major barrier that the Council has identified to implementation of the Employment First Policy. Current regional center service categories are not designed for the type of employment preparation that is necessary to support people with significant disabilities to get regular jobs at regular pay. Similarly, the job development rates for supported employment services through the Department of Rehabilitation are not intended to support these employment preparation activities.

The lack of funding for these critical pre-employment supports is an important contributor to California ranking only 35 out of 44 states in integrated employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. Also, as documented in the Council's 2013 Employment First Report, EDD data shows that only 12.45% of working age people with developmental disabilities are employed. Unfortunately, this includes many people working very few hours a week, making sub-minimum wage, and working in segregated facilities. These appalling employment statistics represent wasted talents, deferred dreams, and hundreds of millions in unnecessary costs to the state supporting people in non-work and segregated services.

We can do better. And we must do better...

*Sincerely,
Jorge Aguilar
Chairperson"*

Tips for Picking a Supported Employment Agency

Selecting a Supported Employment Agency

If there is more than one supported employment agency in your area, you can interview the agencies to see which one you want to work with to find a job.

You can have a friend help you interview agencies. You can call agencies over the phone or set up face-to-face meetings; whatever works best for you.

Below are some questions you can ask. You can ask other questions too!

Name of agency _____

1. Do you develop jobs based on my interest?

2. If I'm not sure what kind of job I'd like, how would you help me figure out what kind of jobs would be a good fit for me?

3. Can you help me find an individual job, not a group job?

4. How often would I meet with you to look for a job?

5. What will I be doing until I get a job?

6. Can you help me find volunteer work or an internship while we look for a job?

7. Are there certain industries where you have contacts?

8. Do you have a waiting list?

9. Can you tell me about some of the jobs other people from your agency have gotten?

Good luck in your job search!

"Tips Sheet" developed by Cindy Ruder, AB4 Community Program Specialist II

Volunteering and Employment

The Corporation for National and Community Service and the Office of Disability Employment Policy explain the, "*Potential of Volunteerism and Service Learning As A Pathway to Employment for Youth with Disabilities.*"

Volunteerism can provide a great opportunity for youth with disabilities to gain important work-based skills and develop a network of contacts.

- Developing career readiness skills, including basic work skills (often referred to as "soft skills"), such as attendance, punctuality, teamwork, and conflict resolution;
- Providing knowledge of specific occupational skills;
- Offering opportunities to establish a work history and connections; and
- Providing a forum for exploring different occupations. Even short-term work experiences can be valuable as a way for all youth to develop skills, contacts, and awareness about career options.

Read more....

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/upload/ODEPCNSPolicyMemo.pdf>

In addition, this site lists many resources!

Employment First Video

Employment First Video

"Employment First is the idea that everyone should have the option, it should be the first option that we even consider for all people with disabilities. That's the American Dream!"

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qnOVKwb80k

A New Option! Self Determination



A NEW OPTION! SELF-DETERMINATION

Governor Brown signed Self-Determination into law, so everyone receiving regional center services will be able to choose Self-Determination, if they want.

What is Self Determination? It gives you the chance to choose the services and supports that help you have the kind of life you want!

How can I get Self-Determination? Self-Determination will not start until California gets federal approval, maybe in 2015. Once it starts, it will be phased in slowly for three years, and then opened to everyone. If you want Self-Determination, tell your service coordinator or case manager.

How does it work? Right now the regional center spends money to buy services for you. With Self-Determination, you get to use that money to buy the services you want. First, you would develop a person-centered plan. Then you develop a budget that says how you would spend the money to make your plan work. Your person-centered plan and your budget must be approved by your Individual Program Plan (IPP) team.

Will I get money from my Regional Center? You would not get to hold the money yourself. Your regional center would give the money to what is called a Financial Management Service (FMS). The FMS is a little like a bank, because it holds the money for you and pays the bills for services you purchase. You can choose the FMS you want.

How much money would I get? You would get as much as the regional center paid for your services in the last year. If your needs change, you could ask for more money; for example, if you are completing high school or moving out of your family's home; or if you need more support because your disability changes. But you can never get more money than the regional center would spend on you for regular services.

What can I buy with my Self-Determination money? With your individual budget you could choose to buy some or all of your current services, or you could choose to buy something different. It's your choice! For example, you might decide that you want to spend some of your budget on technology that would make your life better, or you could pay a neighbor to drive you to your job, or you could pay for child care so you can take a college class.

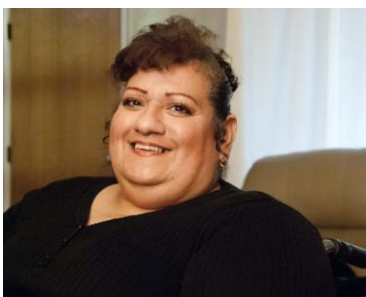
Who can I buy services from? You can buy services and supports from any provider agency, community business, or person who can help you meet your goals. You don't have to use an agency, because you could hire and manage your own workers. The FMS would help you by paying the bills for those services and paying your workers.

There is a lot to do to make a plan, a budget, and manage my own services. Is there someone who can help me? With Self-Determination, you get to choose the people who help you. You can ask friends and family to help you plan and budget, help you manage workers, help you make connections in your community, and solve problems. With your Self-Determination money, you could pay a facilitator to help you identify your needs, develop a plan to meet those needs, find services, and be your advocate. You get to choose your FMS. With Self-Determination, you can get help from people you trust.

What if I don't want Self-Determination? Self-Determination is voluntary. No one has to do it!

SELF DETERMINATION STORIES

Since 1998, California has had small Self-Determination pilot projects for 140 people to see how it would work. Here is what self-determination has been like for some of the people in the pilot project:



Maria Marquez, Los Angeles: "Through Self-Determination I learned to use a computer, and then I bought a computer, because that would help me get a job. I used my Self-Determination budget to pay for childcare, so I could volunteer on local advocacy boards, network and get to know people. That helped me get a job at East LA Regional Center. "



Cheryl, Davis, and Rick Wood, Mammoth Lakes: "Before Self-Determination, regional center supported us with diapers for our son. We had to get them from the vendored agency, they were made in Vietnam and of poor quality. We had respite vouchers, but we had to pay people close to minimum wage. Then we could bill once a month, and they would get paid three weeks

later. We couldn't retain people to do the work.

"Under Self-Determination, we sit down with the regional center once a year to approve our budget. We can pay personal attendants enough to retain them, and they don't have to wait a month to get paid. We could purchase brand name, quality diapers at Costco, for a quarter of the cost. The regional center used to spend \$45,000 per year on Davis. Under Self-Determination we spend only \$25,000 per year. Yet within this budget we are able to arrange the supports we need. "



Willie West, Ukiah. "Self-Determination gives you control of your services. The regional center still looks over you. But it puts you in control. Self-Determination helped me to grow up and live out on my own; manage my own services and lead a full life. I help out at the race track and the Area Board, and help friends with local businesses. It keeps me pretty busy."



Mei Leckenby and Carol Takhar, Alhambra.

"Our sons have grown up with Self-Determination. We find that with Self-Determination, we can think outside the box. Self-Determination is truly person centered, because everything we purchase is all about James and William."



*Self determination is not a particular program or service.
It's a way to get support to have the kind of life you want.*

For more information on Self Determination,
contact Area Board 4 at 707-648-4073 or ab4@scdd.ca.gov

Welcome to the Autistic Community

[Welcome to the Autistic Community](#) is a publication of the **Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)** and the **Autism NOW Center**. Welcome to the Autistic Community introduces newly-diagnosed Autistic people to the community and answers common questions they might have, covering topics such as legal rights and identity.

Tip Sheets for Transitioning Youth

Copied from– Reference Points, published by The Pacer Center's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment

"The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability (NCWD) for Youth recently published a series of six tip sheets that provide youth with action steps for dealing with various life transitions and challenges. Each tip sheet begins with a series of questions geared toward helping youth determine the degree to which each topic is relevant to their lives. The tip sheets then provide background information on the subject matter, including definitions of key terms and reasons that the youth should consider making progress within that domain. Specific action steps are provided, and the tip sheets conclude with helpful supplementary information, such as additional resources. Visit the NCWD for Youth website for [more youth development-focused publications](#)!"

The tip sheets cover the following topics:

- [Becoming a Stronger Self-Advocate](#)
- [Leading Your Transition Planning](#)
- [Learning Disability History](#)
- [Getting Involved in Volunteering](#)
- [Serving on Decision-Making Boards](#)
- [Participating in Internships and Work-Based Experiences"](#)

6th Annual Sonoma County Transition Fair

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Sonoma County Office of Education
5340 Skylane Blvd., Santa Rosa**

Spanish Interpreters available

Area 4 Board Information

Visit our web page at <http://www.scdd.ca.gov/areaboard4.htm> for information on meetings and resources.

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